

The Ballad of Little Lilly Carlin

The youngest of the Carlin's,
A girl of barely three
With skin as white as ivory
An' hair as black as sea.

Her sisters, they all feared her
Her brothers refused to play
'Cause little Lilly Carlin
Ne'er brought her hands to pray

Her hands were always closed
In tight li'l heaps of fist
When asked about this omen
She said but only this:

"My palms are filled with terrors
Dark and awful things
They delight in pain and sufferin'
They'd tear off an angel's wings

They whisper things to come
Things I do not want to hear
But if I squeeze them tightly
They cannot reach my ears."

Her doting family worried
Of the fearful things she'd say
They did all that they could
To keep her thoughts at bay

But little Lilly Carlin
Was a cheerful little girl
With a smile upon her cheeks
She foretold the end of worlds

The other parents scolded
The other children jeered
They teased poor Lilly Carlin
Til she was brought to tears

But if the town had known then
Of what was yet to come
They would have surely stopped
What they claimed was all in fun

There was no way of knowing
Only Lilly Carlin knew
Once the children started schemin'
Alas the town was doomed

One day in late October
They met behind the school
They vowed that Lilly Carlin
Could no longer act the fool

They lured her there with friendship
They lured her there with lies
For when she greeted with a smile
They greeted with chastise

They pried upon her fingers
They tugged open her fists
Lilly refused to give in
So they stepped upon her wrists

She screamed and begged and pleaded
But she knew they would not heed
She was told this day was coming
The children did proceed

She wanted to stay strong
But what was she to do
Her wrists and hands were broken
Her arms and fingers bruised

Alas she couldn't stand it
She took all she could take
Her grip began to weaken
The sky began to shake

Her palms were black as coal
And soon too was the sky
Once her hands were opened
The end, it was in sight

The terrors poured out from her
Not a one was kept inside
The townsfolk all were screaming
They tried to run and hide

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But there was nowhere to run to
The terrors found them all
They burrowed deep into their heads
Made homes within their skulls

At first Lilly was frightened
She knew not what to say
But the townsfolk greeted Lilly
As though they hadn't changed

The townsfolk all now gathered
Thanking Lilly for her aid
'Lil Carlin only smiled
"At least now we can play!"

Her mother scooped her up
And with her eyes ablaze
She told her that she loved her
She asked about her day

"How have you been, dear Lilly?
Please, tell us all." she said
"The day is great, dear Mother.
Though I wishn't you were dead."